

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Your Summer

By Walter E. Myer

"WHAT am I going to do this summer?" That is what most students are now asking themselves and are talking over with their parents and friends.

Summer, of course, is the proper time for vacations—for rest, relaxation, and enjoyment. But it is more than that. It is also a time for constructive achievement.

No young person who expects to make the most of his life can afford to waste all summer in aimless activities. If he is to reap satisfaction and benefit from his long vacation, he must put part of his time to good use. So in this last editorial of the school year, I am suggesting four worthwhile projects for the consideration of our readers:

1. *Develop new interests.* Some individuals have no trouble in finding hobbies and other sources of wholesome recreation. But many persons do. Like athletes who train too hard for one sport, they get into a rut and "go stale."

Everyone needs interests apart from his job or his school work, and the summer vacation period is an ideal time to develop them. Engage in some outdoor sport this summer—tennis, swimming, baseball, or whatever appeals to you. Cultivate a hobby such as nature study, stamp collecting, or photography.

And do not overlook the possibilities of reading for recreation. Stop at the public library and borrow a book now and then. Learn to read fiction, biography, or historical novels for pleasure and relaxation. One who can enjoy sitting down and reading is insured against boredom when, as is often the case, there is no other form of entertainment available.

2. *Share family responsibilities.* Consider all the work which must be done to keep your home running smoothly. What part of it could you take over this summer? Volunteer to do more than you found time for during the school year. Enjoy the satisfaction of doing your part as a responsible member of the family.

3. *Prepare for your life work.* The months ahead offer many opportunities to advance your vocational plans. If you are undecided about what career to follow, a summer job may help you make up your mind. If you have already decided on a vacation, working in the field of your choice will give you valuable experience.

You may not be able to find a suitable job, of course. In that case, there are many other activities open to you. Visit factories, farms, newspaper plants, and business offices to see for yourself what the work is like in those places. Follow the "Help Wanted" pages in your local newspaper to see what jobs are available in your community.

Talk to persons who hold jobs which interest you. Learn from them how much training is required, what salaries and working conditions are, and what prospects for the future appear to be.

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MEXICO CITY has modern buildings and beautiful parks

U. S. Helping Mexico

Two Nations Combat Foot-and-Mouth Disease Epidemic Which Endangers North American Livestock Industry

MEXICO and the United States are working together in an effort to check a Mexican epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease, a livestock contagion that has brought great financial loss to our southern neighbor. Both countries have spent millions of dollars on the project. Our expenditure is more than a "foreign relief measure." It also represents an effort to protect our own livestock industry from the northward advance of the dangerous infection.

The epidemic was discovered in 1946, and it now has a strong foothold in central Mexico. Quarantine lines have been established to keep it from being carried northward and southward. About 2,000 Mexicans and U. S. civilian workers, plus a number of Mexican soldiers, are seeking to enforce the quarantine, and to stamp out the disease wherever it appears. It is now against the law for Mexican cattle to be shipped to the United States, but there is, of course, danger that some will be brought across the border illegally.

Hundreds of thousands of infected animals, which were spreading the disease to others, have been killed by Mexican government agents. This policy has caused intense resentment among the farmers of that country.

A large part of the money spent by the United States in the fight against

the contagion has gone to pay peasants for slaughtered animals, but many livestock owners feel that the payments have been too small. Furthermore, a cash payment does not take the place of an ox that is needed for work in the fields. Since the disease causes animals to waste away instead of taking their lives quickly, it is difficult for some peasants to realize how serious the epidemic is.

The farmers have resisted efforts to find and destroy diseased animals. They have, in fact, killed some Mexican government agents who were engaged in the work. A great many of the farmers are illiterate and do not understand the necessity for quarantine regulations. They slip their animals across quarantine lines and thus spread the contagion. Experience with dishonest politicians in the past has caused the poor people to distrust government officials, and it is not easy to convince them of the need for co-operating with the government now.

Ignorance is thus holding back the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease, just as it has retarded Mexico in other ways. The government of that country feels that lack of education is perhaps the greatest burden which the nation has to bear. More and better schooling has been given to the people in recent years, but a

(Concluded on page 2)

Farmers in U. S. Doing a Big Job

They Are Enjoying Prosperity, but They Wonder What the Future Will Bring

AMERICAN farmers are looking forward to another prosperous year of big crops and high prices. If the weather is favorable this summer, our 6 million farms will produce nearly as much wheat, corn, potatoes, fruit, and other foods as they did last year. Most U. S. farm families will continue to enjoy the highest level of prosperity they have known for many years.

In spite of this favorable outlook, many farmers are worried about the future. They remember that 25 years ago, after the boom of World War I, there was a severe farm depression. Prices of agricultural products dropped suddenly and farmers found themselves with huge surpluses they could not sell.

Will this happen again? Will the history of the years following World War I be repeated during the years after World War II? These are questions which are being seriously considered by many farmers.

They are also being studied by businessmen and government leaders, for a decline in farm prosperity would have a bad effect on the entire country. Over 27 million people live on U. S. farms, or 20 per cent of our total population. For many weeks, committees of Congress have held hearings on farm problems, and President Truman has recently asked Congress to pass a long-range farm program.

Most experts, however, do not expect a repetition of the post-World War I farm depression in the near future. It may come after several years, but at present the outlook for continued prosperity for farmers is good. This is due to the fact that conditions today are more favorable for farmers than they were after World War I.

In the first place, the European Recovery Program is now getting under way, and is expected to continue for the next 4 years. Under this program, huge quantities of farm products (mostly wheat and other grains) will be shipped overseas to feed hungry people in Europe. So long as ERP continues, American farmers will probably be able to sell all the grain they can raise at good prices.

In the second place, U. S. farmers are now protected by our government's "price support" policy. This insures farmers against the ill effects of sudden drops in farm prices. Here is how it works:

Each year the government sets certain minimum prices which farmers are to receive for their wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, hogs, and other farm products. For example, it may decide that farmers need to sell their wheat

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Cattle Epidemic Is Among Mexico's Big Problems

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large proportion still cannot read and write.

The 21 million Mexicans live in an area which is about one-fourth as large as the United States. It is a land of rugged mountains, high plateaus, broad valleys, deserts, and dense jungles.

Much of the nation's wealth lies beneath the soil—in deposits of silver, gold, copper, oil, lead, zinc, and mercury. Mexico is the world's leading producer of silver, and she has a mountain which is said to be the world's largest solid mass of iron. The mining industry as a whole employs about 75,000 workers.

From her underground "treasure chest," Mexico obtains ores and oil to use in her own factories and to sell to foreign countries. She also ships abroad cargoes of chicle (used in the manufacture of chewing gum), chocolate, and coffee.

Although the nation has great mineral wealth, most of the Mexican people make their living on farms. But they produce less food than one might expect from an area as large as Mexico, because so much of the land is taken up by mountains, desert, and jungle. In addition, they use such backward methods of farming that the good land does not yield as much as it should.

The main crops are corn, wheat, rice, beans, and potatoes. With these and little else to eat, the Mexicans do not receive a well-rounded diet. They have few or none of the fresh fruits and vegetables and the dairy products which are needed for good health.

One reason for the average farmer's poverty has been Mexico's system of land ownership. About 40 years ago, a small group of wealthy people held all the good land, and the farmers were practically slaves. In 1910, however, there began a revolution in which the people demanded that they be given land of their own. The govern-



and experience in efficient farm management.

There is hope that the living standards of the farmers will gradually improve. For one thing, the government is helping them to get modern equipment and to learn better methods of work. As time goes on, they will be able to produce larger crops and a greater variety of foods. Moreover, they will earn more money.

The government also is helping to create new farmlands by building irrigation systems. Last year alone, water was supplied for the first time to 400,000 acres of land which had never been farmed because rainfall was so limited.

In the cities, the government is encouraging the building of new industries. As additional factories open, there will be more jobs for city workers. With their first good wages, many of them will enjoy a higher standard of living than they have ever known.

At present, the leading industries prepare Mexico's wheat, cotton, sugar, tobacco, sisal (for twine), coffee, and leather for market. There also are some steel mills, cement plants, glass factories, and paper mills.

As she builds factories, improves her oil fields, assists farmers, and builds better roads, Mexico needs help from the outside. The reason is that she does not earn enough money through the sale of her products to foreign lands, and thus requires additional funds to pay for the equipment which is needed to make improvements. Since the war, our government has lent some money to Mexico, and we may do more along this line in the years to come.

Individuals and business firms from our country are investing money in Mexico. They are doing so with the understanding that they must obey certain rules laid down by the Mexican government—rules which make certain that new industries will be of benefit to the Mexican people. Nevertheless, those of our citizens who are interested in establishing the new enterprises feel that there is a good opportunity to earn profits in that country.

Mexico's efforts to reduce ignorance are showing some fine results, but she still has a long way to go. More than a million Mexicans have been taught to read and write during a special campaign which began about

three years ago. On the other hand, it was estimated last year that about one-fourth of the adults in Mexico City itself still could not read and write. In more remote sections of the country, the extent of illiteracy is much greater. Taking the country as a whole, almost half of the people cannot read and write.

Along with the campaign to spread education, the government is constantly trying to improve the health of the people. The worst diseases to be conquered are tuberculosis, dysentery, smallpox, and malaria. All of them are common in Mexico.

Among the country's inhabitants in greatest need of assistance are the Indians. It is estimated that pure-blooded Indians make up about a fourth of Mexico's population. Many of them live in remote villages, using their own languages and following the ancient customs of their ancestors. It is upon these tribesmen that the burdens of poverty, illiteracy, and disease fall most heavily.

Yet they are the descendants of people who, in past centuries, built great cities and temples and pyramids in the land that is now Mexico; of the Aztecs, who had their great capital where Mexico City stands today; of the Mayas, whose accomplishments in the field of mathematics, perhaps hundreds of years before Christ, seem to have surpassed those of peoples living in Europe and Asia at the same time. Even today, in their art, their customs, and their ceremonies, the Indians show remnants of these ancient American cultures.

Relations between Mexico and the United States are friendly. The Mexican government appreciates the efforts of our country in waging the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease, and it is grateful for the loans which we have granted in the last several years.

Bonds of good will also were strengthened last year when President Truman visited Mexico and, a little later, when President Miguel Aleman came to Washington, D. C. On both occasions, the two Presidents discussed ways in which the countries might cooperate. It was widely agreed that the trips were highly successful in promoting a feeling of greater neighborliness.

At the same time, many of the Mexican people have never forgotten

that the United States waged a costly war against their land years ago. They still look upon us as a powerful neighbor—a country which might seek to dominate Mexico if there were a chance. While this feeling is not nearly so strong as it was some years ago, it still exists in places.

Just as the Mexican people differ in their attitude toward the United States, so do they differ over their government's activities in the economic life of the country. Critics of the government, including a large proportion of the nation's businessmen and large landowners, accuse it of being "radical and impractical." They say that it is making changes much too rapidly in view of the lack of education among the masses of people. The nation would be better off in the long run, they contend, if present efforts to revolutionize it overnight were curbed.

Supporters of the government reply that they are merely seeking to give Mexican workers and small farmers some of the advantages and rights which have long been taken for granted by workers and farmers in such nations as the United States.

Nation's Leader

It was only natural that Miguel Aleman (mee-ge' ah-leh-mahn') should enter Mexican politics at an early age. His father was active in national affairs, and one of the leaders in the fight to overthrow a Mexican dictator.

Aleman spent much of his youth in Mexico City, where he now lives as President of Mexico. After finishing high school, he went to college and became a lawyer. He served for a few years as a judge, but resigned to enter politics.

He was first a senator and then governor of his home state. He became known to the Mexican nation as a whole in 1940 as the campaign manager of the man who was elected President. Following that election, Aleman served in a position which corresponds to our office of Vice President.

In 1946, Aleman directed another successful Presidential campaign—this time, his own. Since then, he has visited in this country and has entertained President Truman in Mexico.

The Atomic Energy Commission has announced that a substitute for costly radium, used in treating cancer, has been found. It is radioactive cobalt, that will cost only \$33 a gram. One gram of radium costs \$20,000.

Outside Reading

"The Stake of American Farmers," by Norris Dodd, and other articles about food, *Survey Graphic*, March 1948. The farmers want protection against low prices for their products.

"The Farmer Is Worried About His Future," by Richard Neuberger, *New York Times Magazine*, March 14, 1948.

"I Like Mexicans," by Montanye Perry, *Reader's Digest*, January 1948.

"Life Can Be Sweet in Mexico," by Frank Hanighen, *Nation's Business*, February 1948.



MIGUEL ALEMAN, President of Mexico

ment which came to power shortly afterward began breaking up the great estates and turning farms over to individual farmers or to groups of them.

This "land reform" process has continued down to the present day. Nevertheless, a number of big estates remain, and many of the peasants still are without land of their own. Large numbers of those who have obtained farms just manage to eke out a bare existence from the soil. They still do not have proper equipment, and they have not had enough training

Careers for Tomorrow - - The Biologist

STUDENTS who do well in biology can build rewarding careers around their interest in this subject. They must be willing, however, to train their minds to be careful and accurate in detailed work, and to acquire a good educational background. Accuracy and precise knowledge are important in almost any vocation one may choose, but they are particularly essential in the scientific fields.

Biology includes the study of all living organisms, from the smallest one-celled plants and animals to the largest, most complex living structures—the giant sequoia trees, for example. The two main divisions of the field are zoology, the study of animal life, and botany, which deals with plants.

Each of these major branches is made up of numerous subdivisions. Among these are entomology, the study of insects; ornithology, the study of birds; ichthyology, which deals with fish; and bacteriology, which is the study of one-celled organisms.

Usually, after a person acquires a general knowledge of biology, he concentrates upon one of the specialized branches and builds his professional career in the smaller field. He may, on the other hand, use his knowledge of the biological sciences in related occupations—medicine, landscape gardening, forestry, or veterinary medicine, to mention but a few.

An individual who wants to base his career on a knowledge of biology should plan to go to college. An A. B. degree is almost a necessity, even for the beginning professional jobs, both in industry and in government. If one hopes to advance to a top position

related to biology he should plan to get an M. A. and perhaps a Ph. D. will also be necessary.

A biologist should have an orderly, yet imaginative mind. He must be able to follow an experiment through and evaluate its results. He must be patient and attentive to detail. While the biologist is usually a part of an



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TESTING INSECTICIDES may be part of a biologist's work

organization, most of his actual work is done individually. Persons who do not like to work alone will find this a disadvantage.

On the other hand, work in biology often mingles laboratory experimentation with observation and study out-of-doors, and the biologist is not confined to a desk as are workers in many other vocations. The biologist may even find that his job takes him on trips to interesting and distant parts of the world.

Well-trained biologists may work in industry, for the government—fed-

eral, state, or local—or for educational institutions. It is impossible to indicate the many individual jobs that may be open to a biologist. Industrial research positions include experimentation related to disease, the development of new products from living organisms, and the breeding of new types of plants. Government scientists perform experiments along similar lines.

Biologists who are employed by educational institutions usually teach, but they may spend a good deal of time on abstract research. There are also openings on magazines for persons who combine the ability to write with a knowledge of biology.

Salaries in the field are relatively high. Most qualified biologists earn between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after they have had a few years of experience. Beginning salaries average about \$2,600 a year.

A high school student interested in work as a biologist, should take a general college preparatory course. In college he will concentrate upon the biological sciences and will probably select a field for further specialized study.

Most first-rank colleges and universities have good biology departments. A person who has tentatively selected a school he wants to attend should write for a catalogue and check on the courses offered. Students who have not decided upon a college may ask their biology teachers about institutions that give outstanding work.

Opportunities for women trained in biology are as good as they are for men. —By CARRINGTON SHIELDS

American Presidents - - Benjamin Harrison

BENJAMIN HARRISON, who succeeded Grover Cleveland to the Presidency in 1889, came from a family well known in American public life. His great-grandfather, also named Benjamin, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a governor of Virginia. His grandfather, William Henry Harrison, was President of the United States for a month in 1841. (He died shortly after taking office.) Harrison's father, John Scott Harrison, served briefly in Congress as a Representative from Ohio, where the family then lived.

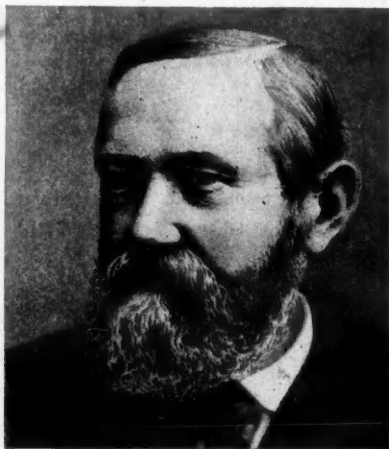
Benjamin Harrison reached the Presidency more because of his family name than because of his own qualifications. Having finished college and taken up the practice of law in Indianapolis, he became interested in politics. He supported Republican candidates, attended conventions, and served the party in minor ways. In 1876, he ran unsuccessfully for the governorship of Indiana. In 1881, he was elected to the U. S. Senate, but he was defeated six years later when he ran for a second term.

In 1888, the Republican leaders were looking for a Presidential candidate who would be acceptable to the people and who would be sympathetic with the business and industrial groups of the nation. Harrison was such a man.

He had qualities that made him a respected, if not a beloved, figure. His name was widely known. He was

honorable, religious, and devoted to his wife, children, and grandchildren. His military record in the Civil War had been a good one. Furthermore, Harrison had qualities that pleased the party leaders. He was not weak in character, but he was not a forceful statesman. He had been schooled in party allegiance, and had shown no strong personal leadership.

In selecting Harrison as their candidate, the Republicans had chosen well. His personal characteristics won sufficient support among the voters to carry him to the White House. (He won a majority in the electoral college, although he did not receive a popular majority at the polls.) Har-



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
BENJAMIN HARRISON, the twenty-third President

ison's political qualifications and his lack of interest in becoming a dynamic President allowed party leaders to control national affairs, as they had anticipated doing.

Several measures put through by these leaders during the Harrison administration, however, paved the way for Republican defeat in the elections of 1892. One of these was the enactment of an extremely high tariff. Harrison may or may not have felt that this tariff was too high, but he made no objection, and the folly of the measure soon became apparent. Our foreign trade fell off sharply.

Another legislative action that aroused public opposition was the giving of pensions to Civil War "veterans" without adequate investigation. A large surplus in the treasury was partially disposed of in this way.

These and certain other acts helped to bring on the depression of 1893. They also led to the defeat of Harrison after only one term in office.

Harrison increased in stature and influence after he left the White House. He lectured and wrote on topics related to government. Returning to his law practice, he took part in several international legal cases. He represented the U. S. at the Peace Conference of 1899, a meeting called by the Russian Czar to try to find peaceful ways of settling disputes between nations. Harrison retired after he returned from this conference. He died in 1901.

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 7, column 4.

1. Everyone expected the action to have *dire* (dir) results. (a) immediate (b) terrible (c) far-reaching (d) direct.

2. Their meeting was *fortuitous* (for-tū'i-tūs). (a) friendly (b) planned (c) unfortunate (d) accidental.

3. It was impossible to *condone* (kon-dōne) the nation's action. (a) understand (b) pardon (c) explain (d) condemn.

4. A person of *impeccable* (im-pēk'ābl) character is: (a) weak and unreliable (b) free from fault (c) sincere and genuine.

5. He explained the *salient* (say-lī-ēnt) points of his plan. (a) new (b) important (c) financial (d) most complicated.

6. Most of the goods in the shops were *tawdry* (taw'drī). (a) expensive (b) unique (c) cheap and gaudy (d) hand-made.

7. The trip required an *audacious* (aw-day'shus) explorer. (a) clever and intelligent (b) extremely well trained (c) daring and adventurous.

8. A *taciturn* (tās'i-turn) person is: (a) tactful (b) reserved (c) talkative (d) insolent.

9. His *trite* (trit) remarks always annoyed his associates. (a) worn out (b) trifling (c) silly (d) cutting.

10. The plan had *transitory* (tran-sī-tō-rī) value. (a) unusual (b) very little (c) temporary (d) tremendous.

11. The pupils showed a *languid* (lang'wid) interest in the subject. (a) fervent (b) forceful (c) new (d) listless.

12. The doctor said the woman's illness was *feigned* (fānd). (a) serious and incurable (b) pretended or make-believe (c) not serious (d) unusual and out of the ordinary.

Your Summer

By Walter E. Myer

(Concluded from page 1)

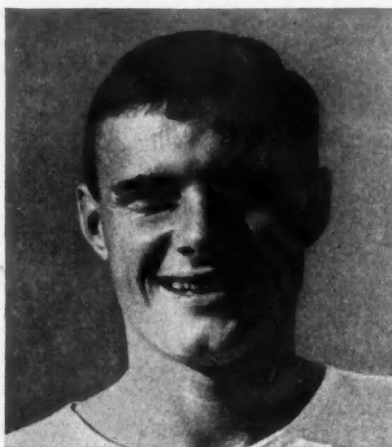
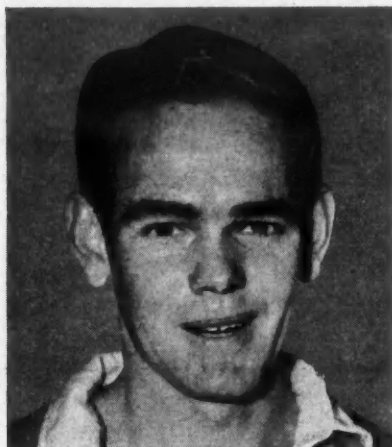
By taking such steps as these, you will make progress toward preparing for your life work.

4. *Become a better citizen.* During the summer you will have more time than you have had during the school year to devote to citizenship responsibilities. You can increase your knowledge of current affairs by devoting more time to the reading of newspapers, particularly the editorials and the columnists. You can read good magazine articles, and listen to radio programs dealing with current issues.

If possible, interest some of your friends in meeting once a week to discuss the problems which face our nation and the world. You might, for example, get a group together regularly once a week to listen to the radio program "Town Meeting of the Air" and then discuss the subjects discussed on these broadcasts among yourselves.

Find out what work various civic organizations are doing in your community. Volunteer your services to help put over some worthy project. That would be good citizenship in action.

The Story of the Week



TOP TENNIS PLAYERS. On their present tour, Jack Kramer (center) has proved himself to be a better player than Bobby Riggs (left). Now, tennis enthusiasts are wondering whether or not Ted Schroeder (right), one of the top amateur players, will turn professional and challenge Kramer next year.

"Peace Conference"?

Is there any hope that the United States and Russia could, by holding a special conference or by negotiating through regular diplomatic channels, ease the tension now existing between them? A number of individuals feel that there is—that an over-all survey of world problems, by representatives of the two powers, would reveal at least a few points upon which a settlement could be reached.

People who hold this view have in mind something different from the conferences on separate problems, for instance those on the question of Germany, which have failed in the past. They say that if the two countries together would view the world scene as a whole, each might find some concessions that it could make without really damaging itself.

Opponents of this view feel that such efforts would be a waste of time. We cannot, they argue, make concessions to Russia without damaging ourselves or the countries that trust us, and we cannot depend upon the Soviet government to keep any promises it might make during the course of negotiations.

This controversy was brought into the spotlight recently by an exchange of statements between Russian and American diplomats. Our Ambassador to Moscow, Walter Bedell Smith, said that, "as far as the United States is concerned, the door is always wide open for full discussion and the composing of our differences." A few days later, Russian Foreign Minister Molotov replied that the Soviet government is willing to proceed with "the discussion and settlement of differences existing between us."

Capitals of many nations then buzzed with excitement at the prospect of a "peace conference" between the two rival countries. However, President Truman soon announced that the U. S. statement had not been intended as a definite proposal to negotiate with Russia—that it "represented no new departure in American policy," but was instead a general explanation of the position we have held for a long time. U. S. Secretary of State Marshall added that agreement should be sought through the United Nations and other agencies that are already established.

Thus, while our government says that "the door is open" for discussion and settlement of Russo-American dif-

ferences, its main desire is for the Soviet Union to demonstrate peaceful intentions by specific actions. Russia's position, meanwhile, is not clear. It is impossible to be certain whether she sincerely wants to settle her disagreements with the United States, or whether she seeks another conference merely to air her views and perhaps to turn UN members against us for negotiating with her separately instead of through the United Nations.

Tennis Stars

Professional tennis stars Jack Kramer and Bobby Riggs are now winding up their cross-country tour. During the past five months they have played each other in more than 70 matches in cities all over the nation. Kramer, who turned professional after winning the amateur singles crown last year, has come out on top about 75 per cent of the time.

Since Kramer's days as an amateur are ended, tennis fans are wondering who will succeed him as national amateur champion this summer. Among the possibilities are the two veterans, Ted Schroeder and Frankie Parker. Both held national titles during the war years when competition was somewhat limited. Among the more promising of the players who have come to the fore in the last two or three years are Bob Falkenburg, Herbie Flam, Pancho Gonzales, and Tom Brown.

Kramer himself thinks that Ted Schroeder, his former doubles partner, may be the next amateur champion. The 26-year-old Schroeder won the national title in 1942 when Kramer was in the Coast Guard. During the past two years Schroeder has been outstanding as a member of the Davis Cup team. Like most of the other top players, he is a Californian.

Rail Operations

As these words are written, the nation's railroads are being run by the government. The same workers as usual are on the job, but they are now under the supervision of the Department of the Army. A number of railroad executives have been made Army colonels to oversee rail operations.

The government's seizure of the railroads came about two weeks ago when the rail companies and certain unions of the rail employees failed to settle

a dispute over wages and working conditions. After government efforts to bring about an agreement had proved unsuccessful and a strike was about to tie up the nation's rail network, President Truman—acting under wartime powers that are still in effect—ordered the Army to take over the railroads and operate them.

The government then obtained a temporary court order, forbidding a work stoppage, whereupon the unions called off the threatened strike. Failure to have done so might have made them subject to prosecution for contempt of court—the same charge on which John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers were found guilty and forced to pay a large fine in April.

Union leaders indicated that they would challenge the legality of the government's action. Barring the success of such a challenge, the government may continue to operate the rail system until unions and railroad officials can settle their differences. By the time this paper appears, progress may have been made in that direction.

United States of Europe?

The first step was recently taken towards what may eventually be a United States of Europe. Delegates from more than 20 countries met at The Hague in the Netherlands and made plans which they hope will re-

sult in a federation of the European democracies. Such a union, they believe, would eliminate the threat of war and would insure a prosperous continent.

Delegates to the conference are now asking their governments to send representatives to an assembly where further plans will be made. This step is necessary since the Hague meeting was "unofficial," that is, delegates took part "on their own" and were not sent there by their governments.

One of the moving spirits behind the plan for a United States of Europe is Winston Churchill, Great Britain's wartime prime minister. Despite the differing viewpoints expressed at the Hague meeting, Mr. Churchill thinks that a successful joining of forces can be achieved. In an appeal for unity the British statesman told his fellow delegates, "When you consider how much unites us together, think how far it outweighs the differences."

Seeing the Country

During the next three months, millions of young people will enjoy new sights and experiences. Some 5 million Americans of school age are expected to spend at least a part of their vacations in summer camps. Another sizable group—members of the youth hostel movement—will walk or bicycle over parts of North America and Europe. Countless others will make brief visits to seashore or mountains, or go on vacation tours with their families.

Organized camping—usually combining a program of sports with handicrafts—is becoming more popular all the time. In recent years there has been a noticeable growth of specialized camps where young people may get instruction in a variety of fields. These include music, dramatics, science, languages, and others.

Traveling by the youth hostel way—long popular in Europe—is becoming more widespread in the United States. In this country there are now about 250 hostels—inns for travelers—where it is possible to stay overnight for a small charge. Hostellers customarily travel by foot or by bicycle since those who travel by automobile are not eligible to use the facilities of the hostels.

Our Last Issue Until Fall

In accordance with our schedule, subscriptions for the school year expire with this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. The paper, however, is published during the summer months, and we invite our readers to subscribe to it.

The summer subscription price, in clubs of five or more, is 3½ cents per copy a week, or 39 cents for each subscription. Under five copies, each subscription is 50 cents, payable in advance. The summer period includes the issues of June, July, and the first two weeks of August.

Meanwhile, teachers who have not already placed their tentative classroom orders for next fall may wish to do so. By ordering now, they will automatically receive their copies of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER at the beginning of the next school term, and they may then make any desired changes in their orders without cost.

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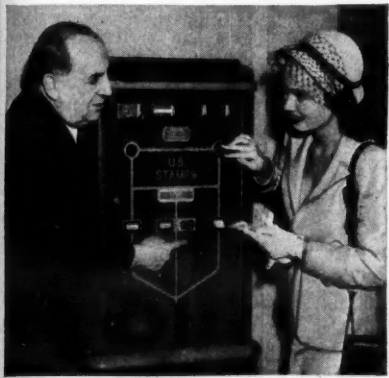
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As in other fields, higher prices will be felt in camping and vacation travel this year. Nevertheless, all indications point to a big summer for campers and tourists.

Colombia and Russia

As a belated aftermath of the revolt in Bogotá last month, Colombia has broken off diplomatic relations with Russia. President Perez of Colombia blamed international communism for the disturbances that, among other things, interrupted the Pan American Conference which was in session at the time. Colombia thus joins her South American neighbors, Brazil and Chile, in severing relations with the Soviet Union.

Despite the interruption, the nations taking part in the international meetings successfully concluded their business before adjourning. They founded a new group to be called the "Organization of American States." It will exist as a regional group within



NEW YORK'S POSTMASTER demonstrates a new stamp vending machine. Long waits in line aren't necessary where the machine has been installed. Unlike many mechanical stamp vendors, this one sells the postage at face value.

the framework of the United Nations. Plans were also made to coordinate various activities in the Western Hemisphere.

Italy's President

Luigi Einaudi, a 74-year-old banker and writer on economic subjects, is the first full-term president of the new Italian Republic. He was recently elected to the post by the combined Senate and Chamber of Deputies for a term of seven years.

Mr. Einaudi will have far less power than an American President possesses. The Italian type of government calls for both a president and prime minister. Most of the responsibility for Italy's immediate future will fall upon Prime Minister de Gasperi who has again been selected for that office.

For many years Mr. Einaudi opposed the Fascist rule in Italy, and during the war he was forced to flee to Switzerland. After his return in 1945 he became head of the Bank of Italy and then an official in the government. A slight, shy man, the Italian leader has three sons, the oldest being a professor at Cornell University in New York State.

70-Group Air Force

Aircraft factories throughout the country are gearing up to build the hundreds of planes that will expand the size and strength of our Air Force. Congress recently authorized the spending of 822 million dollars for

this purpose. President Truman opposed such a large increase in Air Force appropriations at the present time, but he is not expected to veto the measure. Even if he did, it is thought that Congress would pass it over his veto.

Approval of the enlarged Air Force marks the first postwar step in strengthening the nation's armed forces. Other proposed steps such as universal military training and the draft are still under study and discussion. On these hotly controversial subjects the lawmakers have not been able to reach the agreement which they speedily achieved on the question of a larger Air Force.

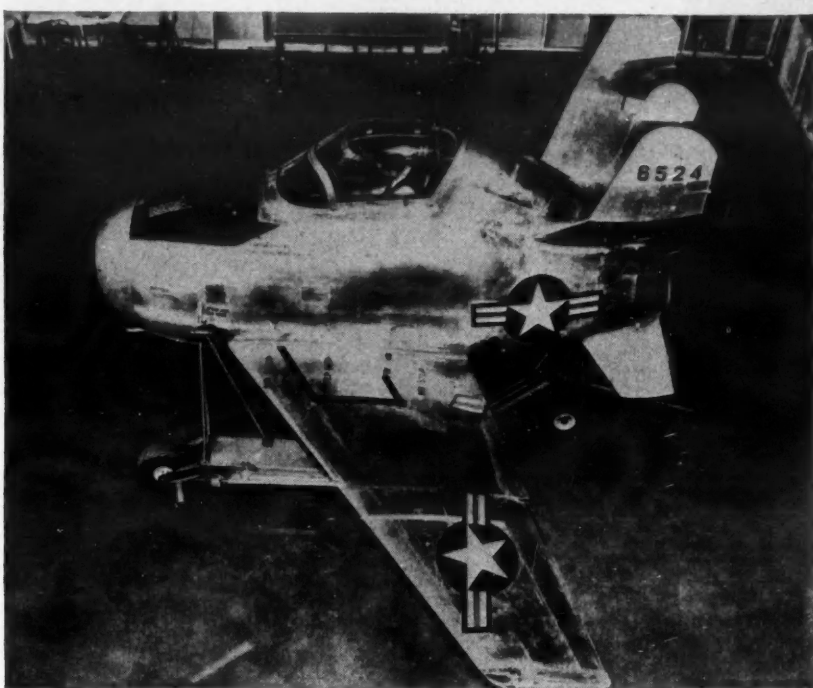
New State of Israel

As we go to press, Arab forces and the Jewish troops of the newly proclaimed State of Israel are moving into battle positions in Palestine. Whether the situation will develop into a long, drawn-out struggle or will become quickly settled cannot yet be determined.

The mobilization of opposing forces followed quickly on the British withdrawal from Palestine about 10 days ago. At the time that Great Britain gave up her 25-year control of the Holy Land, the Jews of Palestine proclaimed the establishment of their own nation—the State of Israel. It is composed of that part of Palestine which the United Nations recommended last November be included in a future Jewish state.

How serious the Holy Land struggle will be depends on Arab tactics. If the Arabs—invasion Palestine from neighboring lands—take over only those areas assigned to their people by the partition plan, serious conflict will be far less likely than if they also try to take over the new State of Israel.

The United States was the first nation to recognize the Jewish state, and our government is devising plans



THIS LITTLE PLANE, with a wing span of 21 feet, has been designed to fit into the bomb bay of a B-36. It will be launched in mid-air from the "mother" plane, and must be picked up again while still in flight. The wings can be folded back when the plane is stored in the larger ship. This development will enable fleets of bombers to carry fighter planes along with them.

to help Israel defend itself. Dr. Chaim Weizmann, "elder statesman" of the Jewish Agency, is acting as temporary president of Israel. David Ben-Gurion is Israel's first Prime Minister.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands is going to give up her rule over the Dutch people this fall. Her daughter, Princess Juliana, will succeed her in September.

Princess Juliana is already acting as regent—temporary ruler—and is becoming familiar with the royal duties. During the last week of her rule, Wilhelmina will resume her office and celebrations will be held throughout the Netherlands.

Science News

A survey to determine the shape and composition of the "floor" of the Atlantic Ocean is being conducted by six American scientists from the Wood's Hole, Massachusetts, Oceanographic Institution. Sound waves sent down from aboard the *Caryn*, their expedition ship, have reached depths of 18,000 feet.

Mountain peaks far below the surface are thus being charted, and sections of the ocean floor called "pastures" are being investigated. It is thought that sometime the "pastures" will furnish a great deal of food, for they contain a wide variety of microscopic plants which are rich in vitamins and proteins.

★ ★ ★

A new form of penicillin called "wycillin" will probably replace present forms of the miracle drug. Wycillin can be given to patients without causing the pain and discomfort which often accompanies penicillin shots. The new drug also retains its strength for seven days without requiring refrigeration. Penicillin retains its potency for only 48 hours without refrigeration.

★ ★ ★

Cotton cloth which will not wrinkle will be available soon. The new finish, called "Superset," is applied at the factory, and will remain effective even though the fabric is washed many times. Until recently, such processes weakened the cotton cloth to such an extent that they were not practical. However, Superset finish has been used with good results on gingham, prints, and other cotton goods.

★ ★ ★

The National Geographic Society's recent study of ants seems to disprove the old saying "as industrious as an ant." About 40% of the insects observed seemed to do nothing at all; the rest of the ant colony varied in the amount of work its members did.

Some ants are ruthless racketeers, preying on other colonies to get their food. Still others carry off the young from nearby ant hills—apparently recruiting them as slave laborers. One kind of ant however, called the harvesting ant, is extremely industrious, and stores up grain for future use.

SMILES

Judge: "Why don't you settle this thing out of court?"

Defendant: "That's what we were doing when the police came and interfered."

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Smith: "I wonder if you would be so kind as to weigh this package for me?"

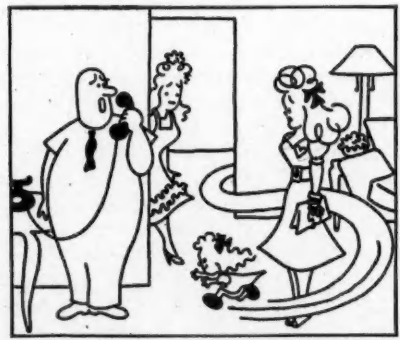
Butcher: "Why, certainly. It weighs exactly three and a quarter pounds."

Mrs. Smith: "Thank you. It contains the bones you sent me in that four-pound roast yesterday."

★ ★ ★

"Did you give the goldfish fresh water this morning?"

"No. They haven't finished what I gave them yesterday."



"Who around here answers to the name of 'Dreamboat'?"

Executive: "Young man, my time is worth exactly \$100 a minute, but I believe I can give you a 10-minute interview."

Youthful Salesman: "Make it five minutes, sir, and I'll take cash for the other five."

★ ★ ★

"What was your score?" asked a golfer. "Seventy-two," replied the beginner.

"Why, that's good."

"It's not too bad, I guess, but I do hope I'll do better on the second hole."

★ ★ ★

Juror: "Your honor, I beg to be excused from jury duty on the ground that I am deaf in one ear."

Judge: "That doesn't matter; we listen only to one side at a time."

★ ★ ★

Slogan in window of a delicatessen store: "Our Best Is None Too Good."

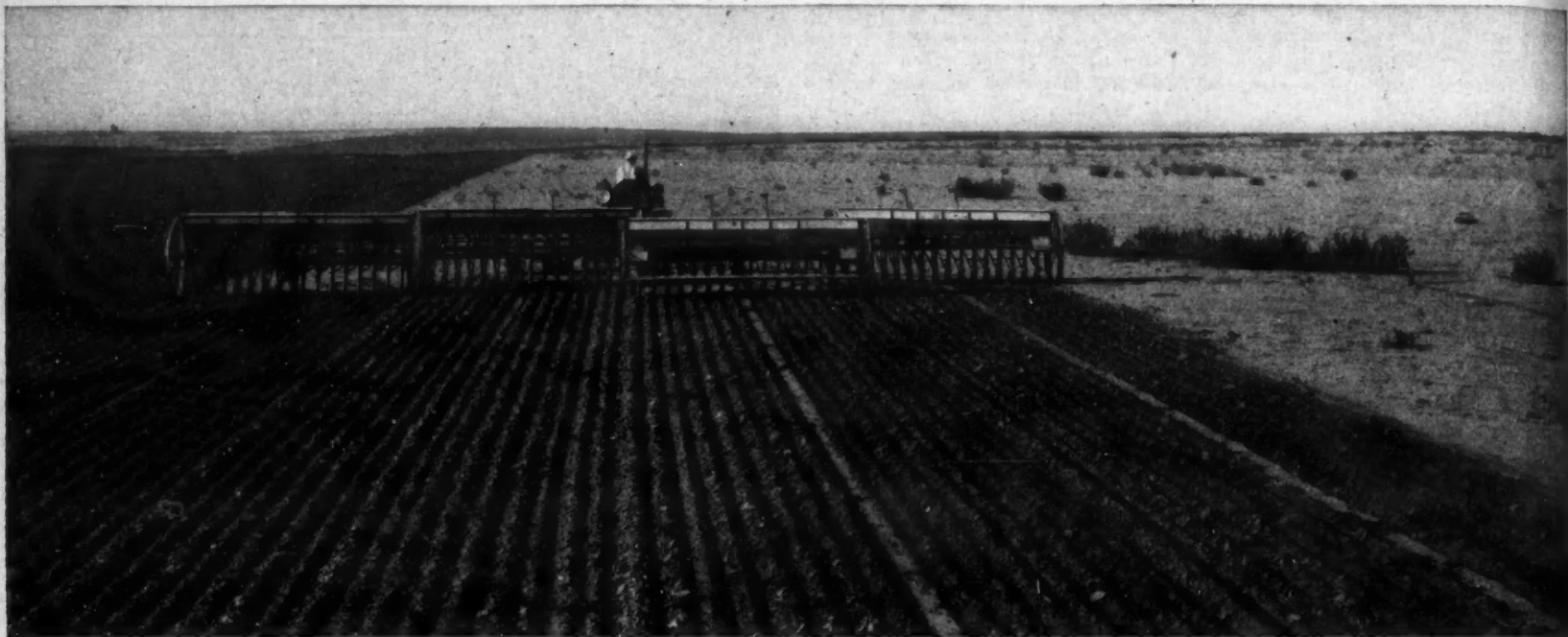
★ ★ ★

An elevator man grew weary of repeated requests for the time, so he put a clock in the elevator. Now people constantly ask, "Is your clock right?"

★ ★ ★

Month after month a firm sent its bill to a customer, and finally received this reply.

"Dear Sir: Once a month I put all my bills on the table, pick at random and pay five. If I receive any more reminders from you, you won't get a place in next month's shuffle."



EACH YEAR the nation's farms become more mechanized and larger crops are grown by fewer workers

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR COMPANY

Farmers Look Beyond Present Prosperity

(Concluded from page 1)

for at least \$2 a bushel if they are to earn a fair profit. If the market price of wheat falls below this "support price" of \$2 a bushel, the government makes up the difference either by granting loans which enable farmers to hold their grain until prices rise, or by actually purchasing the grain from the farmers for \$2 a bushel.

This law has given farmers confidence to go on raising big crops year after year. They know that even if prices decline from their present high points they will not drop so low as they did after World War I. Farmers know that they will receive at least the "support price" set by the government for their crops.

Big City Market

A third factor which experts list as a reason for expecting that farmers will continue to enjoy good times is the prosperous condition of factory workers and other people living in cities. Wages for city workers are high, and jobs are plentiful. Farmers know that the people who live in cities are their best customers, and that when factories are booming there is a good market for the sale of all kinds of farm products.

For all these reasons, farmers think that their prospects for the immediate future are favorable. But they are less optimistic about the distant future. They expect good times to last at least for several years, but they are less confident about the prospects for the next 5 or 10 years. Here is what some farmers are saying:

"Along with sending food to Europe, we are also supplying the farmers over there with seed, fertilizer, and farm machinery to help them recover from wartime losses. Before long they will be on their feet again and will be able to grow their own crops. When that time comes, they won't need big shipments of grain from the United States.

"That's what happened after the last war. By 1920 conditions in most European countries had returned to normal and they greatly reduced their purchases of our agricultural products. We were producing more than was needed to feed our own people, so

we had a big surplus which could not be sold. As a result, prices dropped so low that farmers could not support their families, pay taxes, and meet the payments on their mortgages.

"Of course, we have the government price support program now. But it will expire at the end of this year unless Congress votes to continue it. Even if it is continued, the 'support prices' for many crops are not high enough to give us much profit, and some congressmen want to make them even lower.

"Most city folks don't know what it's like to be a farmer. Housewives complain about the high cost of food they buy at the grocery store and blame it on the farmers for charging high prices. But it's not our fault.

"The cost of running a farm has gone up in the past 8 years. We have to pay more for tractors, harvesters, and other farm machinery. We can't get 'hired men' to work for \$1 a day any more; instead, we have to pay as much as \$5 a day. And when we go to town we have to pay a lot more than we used to for the things we buy in stores.

"Some farmers struck it rich during the war, of course, but they were mostly the big operators. The great majority of us small farmers did not make fortunes. We earned good profits and were able to make improvements on our property, and maybe buy a new car or pay off our debts. But we are worried about the future because we remember what happened after the last war. The farm depression which began in 1920 lasted for nearly 20 years."

Preventing Hard Times

What can be done to prevent another farm depression? Many different proposals have been made in answer to this question. Not all farmers—and not all expert economists—agree on any one solution. The following paragraphs describe the most widely discussed plans for assuring continued prosperity for farmers:

1. *Maintain full employment for factory workers.* If city workers are employed at good wages, as they were during the war, they will be able to

buy most of what the farmers raise. But if the nation suffers another depression like that of 1929, city dwellers will cut down on the amount of food they buy, and farmers will be left with crops they cannot sell. Farm prosperity depends on city prosperity.

2. *Continue food exports to other countries.* Advocates of this proposal say that our farms nearly always produce more than we can use, and that the only solution is to sell a large percentage of our farm products abroad each year. But what if other countries cannot afford to pay the prices required by U. S. farmers? Then our government should step into the picture. It should buy up our surplus farm products at reasonable prices and then sell them abroad for less. Our government would lose money on the transaction, but it would insure farm prosperity.

3. *Promote greater home consumption.* Instead of shipping surplus farm products abroad for sale at reduced prices, others argue that we should help our own people to consume more. For example, they say our government should provide well-balanced lunches for school students free of charge. It should also distribute surplus farm products to our unemployed and low-income groups as it did, under the Food Stamp Plan, during the depression. In this way, it is said, we would solve the problem of farm surpluses and would raise our standard of living.

4. *Reduce farm production.* Supporters of this view say that, since U. S. farmers ordinarily produce more than the country needs, the only logical solution is to produce less. This is the way our factories deal with the problem of overproduction. If an auto manufacturer cannot sell all the cars he makes, he cuts down his output until there is a demand for more cars.

Our farmers, it is argued, should do the same. When we stop making big relief shipments to other countries, our farmers should cut down on their production. Those who are cultivating worn-out soil should be encouraged to leave the land and take jobs in town. Those who have good farms should grow smaller crops and

devote more attention to soil conservation. The government should, through financial inducements and in other ways, encourage farmers to reduce their output when they are producing more than can be sold.

Briefly stated, these are the main solutions which have been proposed for preventing a farm depression in the next 5 or 10 years. They all have their supporters and opponents. They will be discussed more and more if there is a decline in agricultural prosperity, for our nation cannot be well-off for long if farmers are in distress.

As William Jennings Bryan declared many years ago, "The great cities rest upon our broad and fertile plains. Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic. But destroy our farms and grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

Railroad of the Future

In a recent article in the *New York Times Magazine*, Robert Young, Chairman of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, describes what he believes to be the train of the "not-very-distant future." Mr. Young, who has campaigned widely against what he calls "the railroads' Rip Van Winkle backwardness," believes there will soon be a number of revolutionary changes in rail transportation.

"The train of tomorrow"—according to Mr. Young—will be much lighter than present trains but will be both safer and stronger. A wheel arrangement, much like that used on roller coasters, will allow trains to round curves at 80 miles an hour and to reach a speed of 150 miles an hour on the straightaway without danger of derailment. A new kind of locomotive may use jet power.

Mr. Young thinks that special, vacation trains—"traveling hotels"—will become common. They will take vacationing Americans on tours to such places as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, and other famous spots. Clean and comfortable and equipped with all conveniences, they will be a far cry from the old "excursion trains" of the past.

Malaya Advances Toward Freedom

Its People Are Among the Better Educated in Asia

MALAYA, like several other parts of Britain's Asiatic empire, has been undergoing important changes. Its inhabitants now exercise more control over their local political affairs than they did at the beginning of this year. Located in the southern portion of a long peninsula that stretches down from southeastern Asia and reaches almost to the equator, Malaya is a collection of small states headed by native chieftains or sultans. In prewar days, its sultans were required to follow instructions given by British officials, for the area has been under British control for about 150 years.

Japan's rapid defeat of English forces on the Malay peninsula caused the white men to lose prestige. When fighting ended, the Asiatics in Malaya did not want to remain under the domination of Europeans. This same situation has arisen in other Asiatic possessions of European powers. It has caused warfare in Indonesia and French Indo-China. In Malaya, though, the problem has been handled, for the time being, peaceably and with comparatively little difficulty.

Early this year an agreement was completed between the British government and Malaya's natives. Under it, Britain continues to manage defense matters and foreign affairs. Throughout all British Malaya except Singapore, however, local problems are to be largely in the hands of native rulers. The region's states, nine of them, have formed a Federation of Malaya. This organization, as well as each of the states, has a legislative body of native delegates. The new job of British officials in the area is

to furnish help and advice rather than to give orders and positive instructions.

Singapore, the great crossroads port city of southeast Asia and the East Indies region, is not a part of the federation. Located on an island at the southern tip of the peninsula, it remains a crown colony, controlled directly by the British government.

British Malaya contains about as



MAP BY CRAIG

much land as does Alabama. It is rich in minerals, and its plantations raise a number of tropical crops. In world commerce the region is particularly important as a producer of tin and rubber. It sends these items abroad in exchange for food products, machinery and textiles. Japan's conquest of the peninsula was largely responsible for the shortages of tin and rubber that our own country suffered during the war.

There are dense jungles, from which

a great deal of valuable timber is obtained. Wild creatures, including colorful birds, poisonous snakes, vampire bats, and larger animals, are abundant. The climate of the area is extremely moist. Persons who are accustomed to more temperate regions generally find it disagreeable.

The 5 million inhabitants represent a mixture of peoples—principally Chinese, Indian, and original Malayan. The brown-skinned Malays, a cheerful and polite people, once had a reputation for being fierce and warlike. Today most of them work in the fields and on plantations.

Much of Malaya's commerce is carried on by people of Chinese descent. Tin mines and large rubber plantations are mainly in the hands of Britishers and Chinese. A large number of Indians are, like the Malays, employed on plantations.

The region has a mixture of religions too. Most Malays follow the Moslem faith; among the Indians there are both Moslems and Hindus; and the Chinese have brought to the peninsula Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism.

Many Malaysians hope that eventually their country will become entirely free of Great Britain, or at least will develop into a self-governing Dominion as have India and Pakistan. No such change is being planned definitely now, but the long-range prospects for it seem bright. Malaya's educational standards are higher than those in most other parts of Asia, and the ability of its people to handle their own government is growing as they gain firsthand experience.

—By THOMAS K. MYER

Letters From Our Readers

In my opinion, Hawaii should become a state. Since the islanders have shown their loyalty to the United States, I think their statehood would be an advantage to the U. S. as well as to Hawaii.

LORRAINE WHITE,
McCool Junction, Nebraska.

★ ★ ★

I think America has now the greatest responsibility a nation ever had. In setting up the European Recovery Program, it has shown its interest in the world.

Youth has a part in the program, and I think it would be good for THE AMERICAN OBSERVER to carry on an exchange of student opinion on subjects connected with the program. The paper might have student reporters in foreign countries who would tell what young people in their nations think of the "Voice of America," of the way recovery funds are being used, or of America's foreign program in general. Such an interchange of ideas would certainly help in making peoples understand one another and in bringing peace for tomorrow.

GERHARD R. ANDLINGER,
Linz, Austria.

(Editor's note: THE AMERICAN OBSERVER feels that the exchange of stu-

dent opinion Mr. Andlinger suggests can best be brought about through the letter column. From time to time, letters from foreign readers have been published. Others will be given full consideration as they are received. Meanwhile, readers in the United States and abroad are urged to use this column to present their ideas on subjects of current interest, so that students elsewhere can benefit from their opinions.)

★ ★ ★

Military training is important in a young man's career, but his education may suffer if he is forced to leave school and engage in such training. I believe that a plan could be devised by which the nation's youth would be required to take a special course in military tactics while still in high

school. In this way, a young man could complete a full education, and at the same time satisfy the nation's need for trained reserves. This plan could be carried on in colleges and in private schools.

WARD GLASBY,
Pikesville, Maryland.

★ ★ ★

I believe atomic energy control should remain in the hands of a civilian commission. Even though the use of atomic power for peacetime purposes is still a long way in the future, civilian scientists should continue to develop it. They should not have an adequate chance to do so if atomic control were turned over to the armed forces.

CALVIN W. BEBERMEYER,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

★ ★ ★

I believe the Charter of the United Nations should be revised to eliminate the veto. Before our 13 original colonies could combine to form a strong, unified country, each had to give up certain sovereign powers. In the same way, if we are to have peace, the 58 members of the UN must surrender some of their powers to a world legislative body.

DAVID F. MIX,
Buffalo, New York.



Study Guide

U. S. Agriculture

1. What happened to the American farmers after World War I?
2. What effect will the European Recovery Program have on farm prosperity?
3. Explain briefly the government's "price support" policy.
4. Discuss the relationship between wages of city workers and farm income.
5. What factors may reduce the demand for goods produced on American farms in the future?
6. Discuss two proposals put forward as means of keeping the demand for farm products at a high level.

Discussion

1. Which of the proposals for keeping up the demand for farm products do you think would be the most effective? Give your reasons.
2. Does or does not the government's farm "price support" policy strike you as being a sensible one? Explain your position.
3. What do you think about the suggestion that the federal government, in cooperation with the states, provide free lunches for all school students?

Mexico

1. Why are some of the Mexican farmers obstructing efforts to stamp out foot-and-mouth disease?
2. List some of the important materials that Mexico sells abroad.
3. Why do farmers in that nation produce less than one might expect them to?
4. What is the Mexican government doing to promote agriculture?
5. How is the United States helping Mexico in her efforts to develop industrially?
6. How are the Mexican people expected to benefit from the growth of industries?
7. Who is the President of Mexico?
8. To what extent is that country succeeding in its drive to reduce illiteracy?

Discussion

1. What, in your opinion, is the most important step that the Mexican government is taking in the effort to help its people? Give reasons for your answer.
2. How do you think the United States can best aid Mexico to become a more prosperous nation? Explain your position.

Miscellaneous

1. What controversy was recently brought into the world spotlight by an exchange of statements between Walter Bedell Smith, American Ambassador to Russia, and Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov?
2. What procedure did the government recently follow in averting the threatened rail strike?
3. Who is one of the moving spirits behind the plan for a United States of Europe?
4. Name three South American countries that no longer have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.
5. Who carries more responsibility for Italy's immediate future—its president or prime minister? What is his name?
6. What factor may determine how serious the fighting in the former state of Palestine is to be?
7. What is Great Britain's new role in Malaya?
8. What is the latest step Congress has taken to strengthen our nation's armed forces?

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) terrible; 2. (d) accidental; 3. (b) pardon; 4. (b) free from fault; 5. (b) important; 6. (c) cheap and gaudy; 7. (c) daring and adventurous; 8. (b) reserved; 9. (a) worn out; 10. (c) temporary; 11. (d) listless; 12. (b) pretended or make-believe.

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